



**THE WHITE HOUSE**

**Washington, D. C.**

**January 16, 1958**

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS  
OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS  
AND AGENCIES**

**U. S. CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION  
Washington, D. C.**

**June 1958**

I am announcing today that the first President's Awards for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service are being made to these five career employees:

LOY W. HENDERSON, Deputy Under Secretary of State for Administration.

STERLING B. HENDRICKS, Chief Chemist, Agriculture's Pioneering Research Laboratory for Mineral Nutrition of Plants.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

ROGER W. JONES, Assistant Director for Legislative Reference, Bureau of the Budget.

WILLIAM B. MCLEAN, Technical Director, U. S. Naval Ordnance Test Station (China Lake, Calif.).

I know you share my great satisfaction in their exceptional contributions to this Nation in the fields of diplomacy, science, law enforcement, and administration. Their accomplishments exemplify the great capabilities of the people in the Federal service.

It is of the utmost importance that we develop and utilize the full ingenuity and skill of every employee.

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Never has there been a more vital need for new ideas and superior performance in all fields of endeavor. To meet better this need, management must provide a working climate in which employees are encouraged to do their best. Certainly, public recognition of achievements is a valuable asset to maintaining such a climate.

During 1958 we will be celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Federal merit system of employment. It is particularly gratifying that these first Awards for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service could be announced today, the 75th Anniversary of the signing of the Civil Service Act. Throughout this year we should bring to the attention of all the people the accomplishments of Federal career employees whose dedicated service is contributing significantly to the effective operations of government.



## About the Award . . .

The President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service, given for exceptional achievements that are of unusual benefit to the Nation, is the highest honor that the Government can bestow on a career employee.

The new award was established on June 27, 1957, by Executive order of President Eisenhower. It is given personally by the President "with profound appreciation, highest esteem, and great personal satisfaction" to not more than five individuals each year.

From the thousands of employees who serve the American people with distinction, the heads of the Government departments and agencies select each year the few they will recommend for the President's award. The significance and importance of the individual's achievement must be so outstanding or exceptional that it merits greater public commendation than can be accorded by an award from the head of his department.

A board of five top-level Government officials appointed by the President reviews the recommendations and advises the President in his final selection of the five award recipients. The Board members making recommendations to the President for the first awards are: Hon. James P. Mitchell, Secretary

of Labor, Chairman; Hon. Alan T. Waterman, Director, National Science Foundation; Hon. Louis J. Hector, Civil Aeronautics Board; Hon. William P. Rogers, Attorney General; and Hon. Percival Brundage, Director, Bureau of the Budget. The Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, Hon. Harris Ellsworth, serves as Executive Secretary.

The award consists of a gold medal (illustrated on the cover page) and a citation signed by the President. The medal is suspended on a dark blue neck ribbon edged with white and with light blue stripes. The dark blue of the central field is the same as the color of the field of the President's flag; the light blue is the color of the shield of the Coat of Arms of the United States. Each recipient of the award receives, in addition to the medal, a lapel rosette of the ribbon on which the medal is suspended.

The first awards were announced on the 75th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Service Act of January 16, 1883, and were presented by President Eisenhower in a ceremony at the White House attended by the award recipients, their immediate families, the heads of their agencies, Members of the Award Board, and representatives of the press, radio, and television.



William B. McLean, Technical Director, U. S. Naval Ordnance Test Station at China Lake, Calif., who entered Federal service in 1941, receives award from President Eisenhower. Civil Service Commission Chairman Harris Ellsworth looks on.

By his exceptional ability as a research scientist and administrator in the Department of the Navy, he conceived and directed the development of the extraordinary Sidewinder Guided Missile Weapon System.

His outstanding achievement provided an extremely effective, simple, and economical air-to-air missile system of incalculable value to the defense of the Nation and the free world.





Sterling B. Hendricks, Chief Chemist, Department of Agriculture Research Laboratory for Mineral Nutrition, is congratulated by the President on receiving his award. Dr. Hendricks has been in the career civil service since 1928.



His extraordinary and versatile achievements through basic research in the Department of Agriculture are internationally recognized, particularly with reference to nutritional problems relating to soils and plants.

By his outstanding discoveries which have enabled humanity to make significant progress in its struggle against hunger and the wastage of soil, water, and plant resources, he is truly a benefactor of mankind.



John Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, poses with the President after receiving award. Mr. Hoover joined the Department of Justice in 1917 and has served under five Presidents and 11 Attorneys General.



His distinguished career as Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is in the finest tradition of selfless and dedicated service to the Nation.

By personal example and through the institution his brilliant leadership has fashioned, he has contributed immeasurably to the preservation and strength of the Nation, its Constitution, and laws; and to the welfare, peace of mind, and security of our people.



Loy W. Henderson, Deputy Under Secretary of State, receives award from the President as Under Secretary of State Christian A. Herter looks on. One of four Foreign Service Officers to be named Career Ambassador, Mr. Henderson entered Federal service in 1917.



As Career Ambassador and Deputy Under Secretary of State for Administration he has made exceptional contributions to the formulation and execution of United States foreign policy. He has also provided outstanding leadership in the Department during a period of far-reaching administrative change.

In his many posts he has served our country and the cause of world peace with great distinction.



Roger W. Jones, Assistant Director of the Bureau of the Budget, is congratulated by the President after receiving award. Mr. Jones entered Federal service in 1933 and has been with the Bureau of the Budget since 1939.



As Assistant Director for Legislative Reference, Bureau of the Budget, he has, with exceptional objectivity and constructiveness, made outstanding contributions to the development of Federal legislation.

He has been a powerful influence upon the development of the institutional character of the Bureau of the Budget and the quality of staff work performed for the Office of the President. He has thereby rendered invaluable service to the people of the United States.

